

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, courageous men and women of the Palmetto State have answered the call to protect and defend justice, liberty, and the freedom we hold so precious; and

WHEREAS, today, military personnel from our state and nation are serving in such far away places as Djibouti, Balad, Fallujah, and Kandahar where, regrettably, many are wounded; and

WHEREAS, our country is blessed with the most advanced medical capabilities in the world and, even though many surgeons endure long and unpredictable hours, coping with the conflicting demands of work and family, there are those, including Major General Gerald E. Harmon, family practitioner and South Carolina Air National Guard member, Colonel Jim C. Chow, State Air Surgeon, and civilian neurosurgeons Dr. Thomas J. Holbrook, Dr. John Steichen, and Dr. Thomas Anderson, whose patriotism, compassion, and desire to serve extend beyond measure; and

WHEREAS, with extraordinary vision, skill, and sacrifice, these patriots joined together to establish a program to provide civilian neurosurgeons to care for our severely wounded heroes evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, with our civilian doctors performing two-week surgical tours in the operating rooms at Landstuhl.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 16, 2005, as

PATRIOT DOCTORS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the important contributions of the South Carolina Air National Guard and to honor our physicians for their invaluable service and selfless sacrifice on behalf of the men and women of our Armed Forces.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA